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## SITUATION IN SALT MACKEREL

Some fat Magdalen Islands salt mackerel changed hands at top figures during the week, but there is very little of any kind of domestic salt mackerel in the New York market and practically none at producing centres, says the Fishing Gazette. Cape Breton bloaters continue high and very scarce. Shore sells easily but is pretty well cleaned up so far as one may see hereabouts.

The market for foreign salt mackerel continues very firm for all grades. It is easy to see from the range of prices that a few big dealers control practically all the cured Norway and best Irish now on storage here or on the other side. No. 1 Norway remains at last week's figures, but No. 2, No. 3 and No. 4 are a dollar a barrel higher this week than last. Irish of both kinds is also a dollar higher than a week ago.

Shipments of Irish salt mackerel from Liverpool for the week ending March 23 were 250 barrels—all to Boston. The count was 350 to 400 to a barrel. For the week ending March 16 the shipments to this country were 628 barrels. New York took 358 barrels and Boston 270 barrels. Total shipments for 1912 to March 16 of autumn (1911) Irish salt mackerel are given as 28,638 barrels.

### Steam Trawlers For Pacific.

The Canadian Fish & Cold Storage Company, which has a large cold storage plant ready at Prince Rupert is having four steam trawlers of the type used in the North Sea constructed in England. The four vessels are specially designed to cover requirements of the deep sea fishing trade in northern British Columbia waters and the vessels will cost approximately \$40,000 each. In addition to the four fishing steamers the company is having 12 steel launches, each 90 feet long, built. These smaller vessels will be driven by gasoline or oil engines of 400 horsepower. The company will engage in all classes of fishing, principally halibut, cod and frozen salmon for the Canadian, United States and European market. Messrs. G. H. Collins, managing director, and Greer Starratt, general manager, are now in England, arranging for the construction of the fishing fleet.

### Portland Fishing Notes.

Out fell the bottom of the local halibut market Wednesday. The prices paid for the fish were less than half what they brought on Monday for the 35,000 pounds landed by the Tacoma sold for eight cents a pound for whites and six cents for grays. On Monday the fare of the Yakima sold for 11 cents for whites and 13 1-2 for grays. Capt. Del Nickerson of the Tacoma was unfortunate in striking the market at the bottom, but if there are more halibut catchers on the way here, they may receive a lower price than these. For six weeks the Tacoma was out. During that time, she fished on the Grand Banks and lost several sets of gear. At one time ice was encountered, but the schooner was too far south for the most part to be troubled by this. She also had 3000 pounds of salt cod.

### Rhode Island Lobster Catch.

According to a report of the commissioners of inland fisheries, the lobster catch of Rhode Island for 1911 was 891,886 pounds, as against 833,683 pounds in 1910, a gain of 58,203 pounds. The number of lobster pots in 1911 was 13,295, while in 1910 there were 22,091, or an increase of 1204 pots. In spite of the increase in pots, the gain of catch per pot was one pound. In the Newport district the increase in catch amounted to more than 23,000 pounds. The commission attributes the gain shown to the enforcement of the protective laws and to the remarkable success of the Wickford hatchery, due to the fact that the lobsters reared there were not liberated until able to care for themselves, or have grown to the "bottom stages."

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### Sea Dropped a Metre.

Fishermen at Marseilles, France were much puzzled one day last week when the sea level dropped a meter, or about 39 inches, and a tank steamer entering port had her bottom damaged. The phenomenon lasted five minutes. The sea then went back to its normal level.

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## TWO NETTERS VENTURED OUT.

### MOST OF THOSE WHO DID MADE GOOD HAULS OF HADDOCK.

It was a quiet morning at this port this morning, no arrivals being reported up to noon.

Nine of the gill netting fleet ventured out yesterday, and some of the steamers made good hauls. The Naomi Bruce brought in 10,500 weight and the Geisha and Venture, 10,000 pounds a piece. The total catch of the fleet was about 52,000 pounds.

Quite a number of coastwise crafts put in here yesterday afternoon and during the evening for shelter.

### Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

Steamer Alice, gill netting, 1700 lbs. fresh fish.

Steamer Quoddy, gill netting, 8000 lbs. fresh fish.

Steamer Naomi Bruce, gill netting, 10,500 lbs. fresh fish.

Steamer Margaret D., gill netting, 3000 lbs. fresh fish.

Steamer F. S. Willard, gill netting, 5500 lbs. fresh fish.

Steamer Nomad, gill netting, 3500 lbs. fresh fish.

Steamer Enterprise, gill netting, 1500 lbs. fresh fish.

Steamer Venture, gill netting, 10,000 lbs. fresh fish.

Steamer Geisha, gill netting, 10,000 lbs. fresh fish.

### Vessels Sailed.

Sch. Arthur James, south seining.  
Sch. Harry A. Nickerson, dory hand-lining.

Sch. Flora L. Oliver, haddocking.

Sch. Elva L. Spurling, haddocking.

Sch. Frances P. Mesquita, haddocking.

Sch. Walter P. Goulart, haddocking.

Sch. Albert W. Black, haddocking.

Sch. Hiram Lowell, Bucksport.

### TODAY'S FISH MARKET.

#### Salt Fish.

Handline Georges codfish, large \$5 per cwt., medium, \$4.50, snappers, \$3.

Eastern halibut codfish, large, \$4.75, mediums, \$4.25.

Haddock, \$1.50.

Pollock, \$1.50.

Cusk, large, \$2.50, medium, \$2, snappers, \$1.50.

Hake, \$1.50.

#### Fresh Fish.

Haddock, 80c per cwt.

Peak cod, large, \$1.85; medium, \$1.70; snappers, 75c.

Western cod, large, \$2.10; mediums, \$1.75, snappers 75c.

All codfish not gilled, 10 cts. per 100 pounds less than the above.

Cusk, large, \$1.50, medium, \$1.20, snappers, 60 cts.

Bank halibut, 15c per lb., for white and 11 1-4c for gray.

#### Bait Prices.

Frozen bluebacks, \$2.50 to \$3 per cwt.

Newfoundland frozen herring, \$2.50 to \$2.75 per cwt.

Shore frozen herring, \$2 to \$3 per bbl.

Frozen squid, \$3.75 per cwt.

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### Caught Big Sturgeon.

A 300-pound sturgeon, containing 50 pounds of roe, was caught in the Sacramento river recently, at Chico, Cal. Its value to the fisherman was \$27. The fish was seven feet long and fought the fisherman an hour.

### May Close Ponds.

The Massachusetts Fish and Game Commission have under consideration the question of closing Southwick Ponds and Congamond Lakes to winter fishing.

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### Lockeport, N. S., Fish Notes.

Sch. Ella M. Rudolph, Capt. Charles Rudolph, formerly of this port, was at Lockeport, N. S., last week with 15,000 pounds as a result of three days' fishing. On their last set sch. Mariana got 6500 pounds, Julie Opp, 5500, Togo, 2500, Gladiator, 1500. Sch. Lizzie A., after having been laid up for a week to have her engines installed, is again ready for fishing. Sch. Mariana will now be laid up to have her engines installed, after which she will be sent to Liverpool for a thorough overhauling.

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## REVIEW OF THE WHALE FISHERY.

The "Whalemen's Shipping List" of New Bedford last week publishes its annual review of the whaling industry. It reads as follows: There was a small reduction of the tonnage of the fishery the past year, two vessels being withdrawn for the merchant service, viz.: Bark Platina, of New Bedford, 204 tons, and the sch. W. A. Grozier, of Provincetown, 117 tons a total of 321 tons.

The number of vessels on January 1, 1912, constituting the fleet was 37, the total tonnage being 7,924 tons, against 39 vessels, 8255 tons, on Jan. 1, 1911. Of the 37 vessels there are included four steamers, aggregating 1,474 tons, of San Francisco, that have not been fitted out for the past three years, there being apparently no inducement to send them to the Northern seas for bowheads. This leaves about 6,460 tons actually engaged in the fishery.

There were no disasters recorded during the year. Four steamers, the Herman, the Jeannette and the Karluk, of San Francisco, and the Belvedere, of New Bedford, went to the Arctic. The latter succeeded in securing but one bowhead when last reported and remained to winter at Herschel Island. The other steamers secured 32 bowheads, yielding about 55,000 lbs. of whalebone, the only portion of the bowheads retained. In addition to this quantity of whalebone there was sent down from the whaling station about 12,000 pounds.

The barks Gayhead and the John & Winthrop, and the sch. Laetitia, of San Francisco, went to the Japan Sea and obtained an aggregate catch of 2,150 barrels of sperm oil, 50 barrels whale oil and 500 pounds of whalebone. The catch by the Atlantic fleet was in excess of that of the previous year, being 19,715 barrels of sperm oil, 80 barrels of whale oil and 800 pounds of whalebone, as against 17,505 barrels sperm oil, 420 barrels whale oil and 10,000 pounds whalebone in 1910.

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## YOUNG ST. JOHN'S BUSINESS MAN

### MADE PLEASANT CALL AT TIMES OFFICE. BROUGHT NEWS OF SEALERS.

P. H. Cowan, one of St. John's, N. F., young energetic commission merchants was here yesterday after an extended business trip in Montreal, New York and Boston. Mr. Cowan called upon Manager Thomas J. Carroll of the Gorton-Pew Fisheries Company and also made a very pleasant visit to the Times office.

Mr. Cowan, who is associated with his father in business, spoke interestingly of the operations of the sealing fleet to date. This year, a total of 23 steamers, employing 4691 men are engaged, which indicates the importance of the industry.

The latest reports received by cable from his father at St. John's, concerning the success of the catches gives the Beothic with 27,000 seals, Adventure, 15,000, Ranger, 12,000, while the others have about 50,000 among them, and all still on the sealing grounds.

Last week the steamer Fogota arrived at St. John's with 9500 seals.

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### Porto Rico Fish Notes.

Trade in codfish in Porto Rico was more active during the week ending March 21, says the latest weekly market report of S. Ramirez & Co., yet values remained stationary, owing to liberal arrivals. Sales of inferior stocks and of Pacific Ocean fish affected the market also, as these grades sold below the regular quotations. Pollock and haddock, because of the low prices asked, were inquired for in some sections, but in others these fish were very much neglected. The firm quote on the usual net ex-wharf basis large codfish at \$8 per cwt.; medium codfish, \$7.75, and pollock and haddock, \$4.25 per cwt. Arrivals for the week were 904 tierces of codfish, 150 tierces pollock and haddock, and 15 tierces of hake.

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## FISH PRICES WENT RIGHT UP

### ONLY ONE SHORE BOAT ARRIVED AT T WHARF SINCE YESTERDAY.

Fish receipts this morning at T wharf, Boston, show a big falling off over the previous days of the week, only one shore boat arriving during the night.

Yesterday sch. Juno arrived from this port to market about 40,000 pounds of cod fish, while in the afternoon sch. Mary E. Silveria came in from off shore with 79,000 pounds, and sch. Laura Enos from shore with 600 pounds of cod.

Sales of haddock were reported at \$3.50 to \$4 a hundred weight, large cod, \$4.50 to \$5; market cod, \$3.50 and pollock, \$4.

### Boston Arrivals.

The receipts and prices in detail are:

Sch. Mary E. Silveria, 50,000 haddock, 23,000 cod.

Sch. Juno, 40,000 cod.

Sch. Laura Enos, 500 cod.

Sch. Marion, 600 cod.

Haddock, \$3.50 to \$4; large cod, \$4.50 to \$5; market cod, \$3.50; pollock, \$4.

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## THE QUIETEST FOR MANY WEEKS.

### ONLY TWO LITTLE SMOKE BOATS IN AT T WHARF TODAY.

The morning was an extremely quiet one at T wharf, in fact the quietest for many weeks in the fresh fish line, only two arrivals, both shore boats being reported since yesterday.

They are schs. Esther Gray with 900 pounds and Ignatius Enos with 500 pounds.

Haddock was quoted at \$2.75 to \$3 a hundred, large cod, \$4.50 to \$4.85; market cod, \$3; pollock, \$3.50.

### Boston Arrivals.

The fares and prices in detail are:

Sch. Esther Gray, 900 cod.

Sch. Ignatius Enos, 500 cod.

Haddock, \$2.75 to \$3 per cwt.; large cod, \$4.50 to \$4.85; market cod, \$3; pollock, \$3.50.

### SPANISH MACKEREL.

### Season Opened Monday With Fair Catches at East Pass.

Although the season opened some fifteen days ago the first catch of Spanish mackerel that has been made at East Pass, the famous mackerel catching point, was made last Monday by Fred Williams. Mr. Williams reached Pensacola from East Pass with a catch of 4,000 pounds of mackerel and 3,500 pounds of blue fish, which was disposed of to the Warren Fish and Ice Company.

East Pass has gained fame in mackerel fishing circles as one of the richest fishing spots on the coast during the Spanish mackerel season, but somehow they have not begun to run good yet and only very small catches have been made along the coast. Big catches are expected from East Pass almost daily now that the choice fish has started to run.

### Digby Fishing Notes.

The sch. Loran B. Snow, Capt. Ansel Snow, is in from Brown's bank with another big catch of fresh fish, 108,000 pounds, mostly haddock. About 30,000 pounds were barreled up and rushed by express to Montreal and Toronto. The balance of the catch is going through the smoking process for finnan haddies.

### New Towboat.

A harbor and bay tug for the Boston Towboat Company is to be built by the Richard T. Green Company of Chelsea, with promise of delivery July 1. The vessel, to be named the Neptune, will be 92 feet long, equipped with a single engine and will closely resemble the Saturn.